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23 MR. CASTELL: Hello. My name is Jim Castell.

24 I'm a resident of Pahrump here. I need to

25 speak to you from two positions this evening, I

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1 suppose, because I'm also employed at Yucca Mountain.

2 I don't know if any of the other craft members have

3 been here today or not, but I work there and I live

4 here.

5 The wonderful thing about being an American

6 is that we have choices. We have viewpoints. We can

7 like something or dislike something. I have a couple

8 of comments that I'd like to share with you. I suppose

9 I could have a rebuttal to everyone's point of view

10 tonight, but that's kind of senseless. I just need to

11 give you mine.

12 I've worked many places over the years. I'm

13 also retired from the Department of Defense. And I

14 worked for a long time at an army depot activity that,

15 for many, many years, had a program to destroy chemical

16 agents. This facility is located in Utah. And, as you

17 know, the Soviets during the World War period and the

18 United States generated large quantities of chemical

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19 warfare. So both nations over the years have had  
20 incineration plans to destroy and get rid of a lot of  
21 the chemicals and, believe me, nerve agents are just as  
22 deadly as anything that is connected to the nuclear  
23 industry.

24       So if we can overcome large massive  
25 stockpiles of all these chemical agents, we can  
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1 overcome whatever other problems that we have with  
2 storing the waste spent nuclear rods out of Yucca  
3 Mountain.

4       I am in favor of putting the waste at Yucca  
5 Mountain, not just because I work there, but I happen  
6 to think that it's going to end up being a very safe  
7 facility. I don't know how many of you have had jobs  
8 where you can do time-out and the entire project stops  
9 if there is something wrong with the work instructions  
10 or it wasn't on the plan of the day, or something is  
11 just out of the ordinary and needs to be corrected.

12 But we, as employees, have a Bill of Rights. That Bill  
13 of Rights says that we work in a safe environment.

14       We have to be knowledgeable of any hazardous  
15 materials on the project. We have all kind of rights

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16 to simply stop the project and that doesn't mean me and  
17 two other fellows. If it's something very serious,  
18 they can shut the whole project down and we can do this  
19 without fear of repercussion from the management side  
20 of the house.

21 So those of you that haven't worked in a job  
22 like that, it's quite different. But if it was unsafe  
23 to work there, I certainly wouldn't want to be part of  
24 it. So I wanted to share that with you. There is a  
25 lot of people that think we do things that are very  
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1 unsafe. That is not so.

2 Many of you have probably come out on the  
3 tours that DOE offers. If you have not been there on a  
4 tour, you should take the opportunity to come on one  
5 and listen to the presentations of all of the different  
6 types of testing and scientific studies that are being  
7 conducted. Many people that I talk to have a viewpoint  
8 and an opinion, but it's largely based on what they've  
9 heard from someone else. If you want to learn about  
10 something, the way to find out is to go and check it  
11 out. If you check with the Department of Energy, you  
12 can find out when tours are scheduled and you can come

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13 and see for yourself.

14 In any case, I'm like the fellow that was  
15 from, I think, Caliente. I believe everyone is  
16 entitled to a viewpoint to think as we please and speak  
17 what they think is right. So all of you that are  
18 opposed to Yucca Mountain, you certainly are entitled  
19 to that opinion. But just hearing it from someone else  
20 and the constant drum-beating that everything is  
21 unsafe, I invite you to come and check it out. See for  
22 yourself. There is not a bunch of obscene crazy things  
23 going on that some people think. Come out there and  
24 visit and see exactly what is done and listen to the  
25 people and they will tell you exactly the studies that

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1 have been taking place.

2 I've heard a lot of things tonight about  
3 polluting the water. There are extensive tests,  
4 extensive drilling that has taken place in the past to  
5 check all of these things. You can get all of that  
6 information. A lot of people think that things are  
7 being done just because it's a governmental agency and  
8 the people are not being told. You know what? I work  
9 there and I know that that's not entirely so.

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10       MODERATOR BROWN: One minute left.

11       MR. CASTELL: Okay. In any case, I'll wrap

12 it up. I appreciate being able to talk to you tonight.

13 Being an employee there at Yucca Mountain, and as a

14 citizen of Pahrump here, I wouldn't want to live here

15 either if it was going to be dangerous. I would be

16 packing up with some of these tribal folks and hitting

17 the road myself. I'm not going anywhere. I think it's

18 safe. Come out and check for yourselves. Don't just

19 simply take the word of someone else that happens to

20 who is against the project.